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Says He's Member of CIA

Mr. O'Konski--

CPYRGHT

Our Own James Bond?

The Central Intelligence Agency has been accused of having had student groups, labor unions and church organizations in its fold. Now, if what Cong. Alvin D. O'Konski (R-Mercer) says is true, the CIA may also have a congressman in its ranks.

O'Konski informed a gathering of northern Wisconsin constituents over the weekend that he is an expert on the Vietnam War because "I am a member of the Central Intelligence Agency."

O'Konski is an expert

qualified to give advice on the conflict there because "I am a member of the Central Intelligence Agency," the congressman was quoted as saying in the Vilas County News-Review, published at Eagle River.

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The Capital Times checked with Dan Satran, editor of the Eagle River newspaper, to make sure the quote was not a misprint. Satran insisted the congressman had made the statement.

The Wisconsin Republican, who has been sent to

Washington by his district twelve times in a row, made the startling statement at Three Lakes Sunday night in a speech before the Polish Pioneers Club.

He told the gathering that Americans should listen to Gen. William Westmoreland's advice on the Vietnam conflict rather than Secretary of State Dean Rusk or Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

O'Konski informed his audience that Westmoreland gave him and other congressmen a "secret" briefing and explained "they have clearly established that the Viet Cong are continually encouraged by anti-war demonstrations in this country."

The congressman has made several other startling statements during his long term in Congress. He once informed his voters he had visited Russia and collected material to use in anti-Communist speeches.

The Capital Times investigated O'Konski's contentions and discovered the congressman had never been to Russia and had

never even obtained a visa from the State Department for such a trip.

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O'Konski also for several years claimed he was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and had obtained a master's degree. A check of University records revealed O'Konski had never received a degree and had only been a student there for two semesters and a summer session.

The congressman also told his voters during one campaign that he had been a professor of speech at Oregon State College. An investigation revealed he was an "instructor" in the speech department until he was fired after being arrested for "obtaining money under false pretenses" and "larceny."

Washington officials were sure the congressman must have made a mistake in claiming membership in the CIA.

"Perhaps he got mixed up during the speech," said one official.

The CIA was not available for comment.